

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1. – 17. (Canceled).

18. (Currently amended) A device for malting grains comprising:

a tower with a plurality of stories delineated by story floors;

air-permeable annular supporting floors associated with each story being structured and arranged to support grain to be germinated;

a central cylindrical space at an inner diameter of the annular supporting floors in which perpendicular channels extending over an entire height of the stories are arranged, the cylindrical space being divided to define the channels as segmented cross-sections that are separated from each other by radial intermediate walls;

air flow paths associated with each story comprising supply channels, displacement elements, and discharge channels, wherein an air flow path for a respective story comprises air flow through a respective supply channel, through respective displacement elements and a respective supporting floor and its associated grain, and through a respective discharge ~~path~~ channel, whereas each of the perpendicular channels is allocated to a respective supply channel or a respective discharge channel; and

~~at least one central opening within the respective story, through which at least the respective supply channel and the respective discharge channel for the respective story flows are arranged~~ each story comprises:

an outflow opening allowing an air flow path from a respective supply channel to a respective floor and its associated grain; and

a flow-through opening allowing an air flow path to a respective discharge channel.

19. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 18, further comprising air conditioning elements for conditioning air to be supplied to the grain.

20. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 18, wherein the discharge channel empties at least one of into an underpressure chamber and through an opening into an outside environment.

21. (Currently amended) The device in accordance with claim 18, ~~further comprising a central floor opening through at least one of respective story floors delineating the respective story,~~ wherein the respective supply channel and the respective discharge channel are arranged to abut each other as they extend through the central floor opening.

22. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 21, wherein the central floor opening is circular.

Claim 23. (Canceled).

24. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 21, wherein the at least one central floor opening is at least 10 meters in diameter.

25. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 24, wherein the at least one central floor opening is at least 12 meters in diameter.

26. (Currently amended) The device in accordance with claim 18, wherein each annular supporting floor is ~~annular~~ with has an interior diameter of at least 10 meters.

27. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 26, wherein the interior diameter for each supporting floor is at least 12 meters.

28. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 26, wherein the supporting floor has a radial span of at least 7 meters between the interior diameter and an exterior diameter.

29. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 26, wherein the supporting floor is rotatable around a rotational axis extending through a central axis of the annular shape.

30. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 18, further comprising air conditioning elements located below a lowermost supporting floor for the grain to be germinated.

31. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 18, further comprising air conditioning elements located above an uppermost supporting floor for the grain to be germinated.

32. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 18, further comprising air conditioning elements located within an outer periphery of the story floors for the grain to be germinated.

33. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 18, further comprising another supporting floor arranged to support germinated grain to be dried and located below a lowermost supporting floor to support the grain to be germinated.

34. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 33, wherein the another supporting floor to support the germinated grain to be dried has dimensions similar to those of the supporting floors to support the grain to be germinated.

35. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 18, wherein the supporting floors are air permeable.

36. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 18, wherein the supporting floors are perforated.

37. (Currently amended) A method for malting grains in a tower with a plurality of stories delineated by story floors, comprising:

arranging grain to be germinated on a respective air-permeable supporting floor associated with at least one of the plurality of stories, wherein the supporting floor of each of the plurality of stories includes a central opening;

guiding air through at least one of a plurality of channels arranged within the central openings as a flow path associated with the at least one of the plurality of stories, the flow path extending through a supply channel, through displacement elements, through the respective supporting floor and its associated grain, and through [[a]] at least one other of the plurality of channels within the central openings as a discharge path, wherein the plurality of channels are defined as segmented cross-sections separated from each other by radial intermediate walls; and

guiding the air in the at least one supply channel and in the at least one discharge channel through ~~at least one~~ the central opening openings arranged within the ~~one of the~~ plurality of stories.

38. (Currently amended) A device for malting grains comprising:
- a tower with a plurality of stories delineated by story floors;
 - air-permeable supporting floors associated with each story being structured and arranged to support grain to be germinated;
 - at least one supply channel;
 - at least one discharge channel;
 - displacement elements arranged between the at least one supply channel and the at least one discharge channel;
 - an air flow generator structured and arranged to generate an air flow path through the at least one supply channel, through ~~the displacement elements~~ at least one outflow opening located below at least one of the air-permeable supporting floors, through the at least one of the air-permeable supporting floors and the grain supported thereon, through at least one flow-through opening arranged above the at least one of the air-permeable supporting floors, and through the at least one discharge channel; and
 - at least one central opening within at least one story, through which the at least one supply channel and the at least one discharge channel extend, wherein the at least one supply channel and the at least one discharge channel are defined by radial intermediate walls as separate segmented cross-sections within the at least one central opening.